Journal Review

Providing Support for Teacher Leaders

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The growing demands of educational leaders have multiplied in the past few years making it difficult to meet all the needs. To lend a hand, the concept of “teacher leaders,” is becoming more prevalent in schools today.

Student growth and achievement are a major concern; therefore, schools and intermediate units are assigning math and reading coaches to work with both teachers and students. In addition, through the Classrooms for the Future program, technology coaches have appeared in the classrooms of today to work with teachers to successfully integrate technology into their curriculum using rigor and higher-order thinking skills.

The teacher leader concept can be very effective as part of a school’s improvement plan. Both students and principals benefit with teacher leaders helping to lighten the principal workload along with providing additional insights into school issues. Alongside the benefits are a few concerns. The principal is a key factor in the success of the concept; therefore, principals must be willing to share authority and provide opportunities for the teacherd to learn to become leaders. Choosing the right people based on their interests and skills will produce a positive experience for all parties involved.

My teacher leader experience in the public schools was positive; however, I was not provided with leader or coaching training. Through my Technology Integration Mentor (TIM) role at the Intermediate level, leadership and coaching training is ongoing.

The teacher leader concept is going to continually grow. Principals need to take baby steps and begin by choosing a core group of teachers that will help provide leadership and promote a positive educational environment.

References

Henderson, Jennifer (2008). Providing Support for Teacher Leaders. *ASCD, Education Update*, 4-5.